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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANDREWS WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TWO COUNTS OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

(Midland, Texas) United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that, Alva Upchurch, 34, of Andrews, Texas, plead guilty to two counts of sexual exploitation of a child. During the hearing in front of U.S. Magistrate Judge Stuart Platt, Upchurch admitted that on July 6, 2001, she took pornographic pictures of her minor daughter and on November 21, 2001, she took pornographic 8 mm tape of her minor daughter and then gave the photographs and film to her boyfriend, Johnnie Ramirez.

For each count, Upchurch faces a maximum 20 years without parole in federal prison. Ramirez, who plead guilty to two counts of sexual exploitation of a child in October, also faces a minimum ten years without parole in federal prison for each count. Upchurch and Ramirez are in custody until their sentencing which is set for late January.

"The Department of Justice remains solid in its commitment to identify, investigate, and prosecute those who sexually exploit children," said U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Andrews Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Glenn Roque-Jackson.

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